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DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

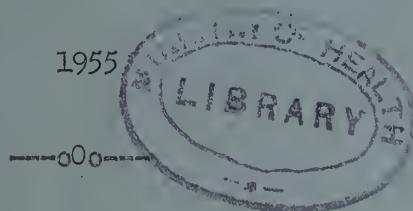
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1955





West Hill House,
West Hill,
EPSOM,
Surrey.

October, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking and Horley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit an Annual Report for the year 1955, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in Circular 17/55 of the Ministry of Health.

In considering the vital statistics for the year, it will be noted that, compared with the previous year, there was a fall in the birth rate to 14.8, this being the lowest figure since 1941. There was, on the other hand, a rise of 1.7 in the death rate to 10.7 due, in the main, to an increased number of deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases affecting the older age group of the population.

The infant mortality rate was higher than it has been since 1948, though it is still slightly below the national figure. Three infant deaths were caused by infections of the respiratory tract, and emphasises the continued need for caution in dealing with these conditions when they occur in young children.

Deaths due to road accidents remained high. In the report an attempt has been made to compare local statistics with larger areas. The result suggests that conditions in the Rural district are bad, and when Horley Parish alone is considered, it seems apparent that a great deal remains to be done to promote road safety.

In referring to the section of the report dealing with infectious diseases, it will be noted there were increases in the incidence of measles and poliomyelitis, and decreases in scarlet fever and tuberculosis.

There was no case of diphtheria, for the seventh year in succession. Nevertheless, attention is called to the continued need for protection against this disease by immunisation. The treatment can now be combined with immunisation against whooping cough and tetanus.

There were falls in both the notification and death rates for tuberculosis. The control of this disease has become a possibility through improved methods of diagnosis and treatment, and an essential factor is the early diagnosis of new cases, for which X-ray examination is necessary. It is regrettable that only a fraction of the population takes advantage of the periodical visits of the Mass Radiography Unit to the district.

I wish to record my appreciation of the conscientious service rendered by my staff, of the help received from other departments of the Council's service, and of the support and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1955-56

Mrs. I. Carr
Mr. A Farley

Major-Gen E. H. Goulburn (Chairman of Committee)
Mr. C. F. Keen

Col. T. R. B. Sanders, C.B.

Mrs. B. H. Holland
Mr. G. J. Stack

Mr. J. W. Shephard
Mrs. R. Sewill (Vice-Chairman of Committee)
Mr. G. H. Sharpe (Vice-Chairman of Council)

Mrs. P. J. M. Catteral

Capt. E. H. T. Broadwood, M.C.
Group-Capt. H. W. Scott

Mr. W. G. L. Austin
Mr. L. S. Bailey
Mr. C. H. Bishop
Mr. R. D. Duncan
Mrs. E. D. Hill
Mr. G. W. B. Palmer, C.C.
Mrs. W. A. Searle
Mr. T. P. N. Watkins
Mr. F. A. Woodruff

Mr. V. S. Wood, J.P.

Mr. G. R. Horley
Mr. H. T. Whittingham

Mr. V. H. Deuchar (Chairman of Council)

Group-Capt. F. Whitworth

Representatives of the Council on

(1) SOUTHERN DIVISIONAL (HEALTH) SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs. I. Carr
Mrs. E. D. Hill
Mr. G. R. Horley
Mr. H. T. Whittingham

(2) TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEES

Mr. G. R. Horley (Dorking Care Committee)
Mrs. E. D. Hill (Reigate Care Committee)

DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

Cyrus Ivo, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.) D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

and

Housing Officer

Eric A. Atkinson

M.R. San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

D. D. Heath

M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

R. R. Charman

M.R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

Housing Assistant

K. G. Cooper

A.I. Hsg., A.R. San.I.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff

Senior Clerk:

C.H. Argent (Resigned
30.9.55)

Miss E.E. Nolan (From
1.10.55)

Clerk/Telephonist:

Mrs. M. E. Joseph

Junior Clerk:

Miss M. Chalker (From
21.11.55)

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff

Shorthand/Typists:

Miss E. M. Knight

Mrs. P. B. Knight

Miss M. Bradley

Pests Officer

W. J. Woodward

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

THE YEAR 1955

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	53,943
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	25,832
Population (Estimated mid-year 1955)			...	...	27,770
Density (persons per acre)		...	...	...	0.51
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1955		...	...	...	8,583
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1955			...	...	£276,669
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,065

PARISHES COMPRISING THE DISTRICT WITH AREA, POPULATION, ETC.

Parish	Population (1951)	Area (acres)	No. of Houses Dec. 1955	Rateable Value Dec. 1955
Abinger	1,889	7,481	609	18,472
Betchworth	1,614	2,562	505	15,745
Buckland	640	1,362	222	9,887
Capel	2,386	5,694	775	23,535
Charlwood	2,757	6,901	823	32,447
Headley	591	1,640	158	8,287
Holmwood	1,084	3,749	327	10,816
Horley	11,394	7,449	3,967	125,758
Leigh	820	3,419	278	7,653
Newdigate	1,220	4,744	421	10,293
Ockley	798	3,400	282	7,343
Wotton	639	5,542	216	6,433
	25,832	53,943	8,583	276,669

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births

Total Male Female

Total	412	219	193	Birth rate per 1,000 population	14.8
Legitimate	394	208	186		
Illegitimate	18	11	7		
				Standardised Birth Rate	15.7

Still Births

Total	12	4	8	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	28.3
Legitimate	12	4	8		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
				Rate per 1,000 Population	0.43

Deaths

296	141	155	Crude Death Rate	10.7
			Standardised Death Rate	9.6

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Total	10	3	7	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	24.3
Legitimate	10	3	7		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

Deaths of Infants under 1 month of age

Total	7	2	5	Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	17.0
Legitimate	7	2	5		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

Maternal Mortality

Maternal causes (excluding abortion)	-	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births (live & still)	-
Due to abortion	-		

Table I shows birth and death rates, and case rates for infectious diseases, with comparison with the figures for 1954.

Table II gives a comparison of birth death and infant mortality rates for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales for the same period.

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 412 of which 219 were males and 193 females, representing a birth-rate of 14.8 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the rate of 15.0 for England and Wales. A comparability factor (1.06) has been supplied by the Registrar-General, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas, for use when comparing the local rate with those of other districts. When applied, a standardised rate of 15.7 is obtained.

Twelve still births were registered during the year, giving a still birth-rate of 28.3 per 1,000 total live and still births. The rate for England and Wales was 23.1.



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DEATHS

The deaths assigned to the area numbered 296, representing a crude death-rate of 10.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The total comprised 141 males and 155 females.

A comparability factor (0.90) has been provided by the Registrar-General which may be applied to the crude death-rate for use in comparing the local death-rate with those of other areas. The factor makes allowance for the differing age and sex distributions of local populations. Application of the factor to the local rate reduces it from 10.7 to 9.6. The death-rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

Approximately 41% of deaths took place in hospitals.

The causes of death are set out in Table III. Heart disease, diseases of the circulatory system and cancer were again the most frequent causes of death in the older age group. The average age at death of males was 64.9 years and of females 70.2 years.

Road Accidents

Deaths of residents due to accidents involving motor vehicles numbered 6, compared with 5 in 1954. The total included 2 boys aged 14 and 8 years, 2 middle aged and 2 elderly persons. Five of the deaths took place in the Redhill District Hospital and were of residents of the Parish of Horley; the remaining case was killed on the main road at Abinger Hammer. This type of accident accounted for 2% of the deaths which occurred during the year in the Rural District, and if the Parish of Horley were considered alone the percentage would rise to 4%. Corresponding figures for England and Wales and for the County of Surrey are not yet available, but in 1954 were 0.9%. These statistics suggest that for 2 years in succession traffic conditions in Horley have been highly dangerous.

The above figures do not include the deaths of non-residents which may have resulted from accidents in the districts.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of children under the age of one year numbered 10 and the infant mortality rate was 24.3 per 1,000 live births. Comparable figures for 1954 were 8 deaths and an infant mortality rate of 18.3. The rate for England and Wales was 24.9.

Seven of the deaths occurred within one month of birth, and all of these were attributed to congenital defects. In the remaining cases the cause of death was a respiratory infection.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No death connected with pregnancy was recorded during the year. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.64 per 1,000 births.

GROWTH OF POPULATION

The Registrar-General's estimate of population at 27,770 showed an increase of 190 on the previous year. Part of this was due to a natural increase, excess of births over deaths being 116. The remainder of the increase must be accounted for by immigration.

The population of the district is estimated to have increased by 1,938 since the Census was taken in 1951.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories available to medical practitioners are provided at the East Surrey and St. John's Hospitals, Redhill, and at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. Examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases can be referred to either of two Public Health Laboratories of the Medical Research Council, one situated at West Hill House, West Hill, Epsom and the other at St. Luke's Hospital, Guildford. These laboratories also undertake bacteriological examinations of samples of water supplies, milk and food, including ice-cream and biological examinations for tubercle bacilli in milk.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The public ambulance service is under the control of the Surrey County Council, who have given the following information regarding the use of the service.

In accidents in the home or elsewhere or in sudden illness in streets or public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone use local Emergency Calling System). Normal maternity cases will be removed if the applicant can give evidence that a maternity bed has been booked. Maternity cases with serious complications, or where birth is imminent, will not normally be moved without the authority of a doctor or certified midwife who should travel with the patient in the ambulance. The removal of other cases of illness or accident will be arranged by the hospital concerned or by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient. For private removals a written request, accompanied by a doctor's certificate, should be made to the County Medical Officer for his consideration. Providing that these requirements are fulfilled no charge will be made to users.

The main ambulance station for the area is the Smallfields section of the Redhill County Hospital (Telephone Smallfields 271) with sub-stations at Victoria Road, Horley and at Harrowlands, South Terrace, Dorking. Calls for the use of an ambulance in the parish of Headby will be answered from the main ambulance station. For accidents or cases of sudden illness the local Emergency Calling System should be used.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRESCare of Mothers. Young Children, etc.

The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, immunisation and vaccination, ambulance and domestic help is the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day-to-day administration has been delegated to the Southern Divisional Health Sub-Committee and its officers, with headquarters at "Caberfeigh", Hatchlands Road, Redhill, (Telephone No. Redhill 3206).

I am indebted to the Divisional Medical Officer for the following information relating to clinics in the area.

Time-table of Clinics and their Addresses

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics	Ewhurst Village Hall	1st & 3rd Fris. 2 p.m.
	Peaslake Old School Room	2nd & 4th Mons. 2 p.m.
	Holly Bush, Holnbury St. Mary	2nd & 4th Fris. 2 p.m.
	The Vicarage Betchworth	1st Tues. 2 p.m.
	Brockham Homes, Brockham. (Voluntary)	1st & 3rd Fris. 2 p.m.
	Wesley Hall, Capel	2nd & 4th Thurs. 2 p.m.
	Parish Hall, Charlwood	2nd & 4th Weds. 2 p.m.
	R.A.F. Rehabilitation Unit, Headley Court	2nd & 4th Weds. 2 p.m.
	Congregation School Room, Walton-on-the-Hill	1st & 3rd Tues. 2 p.m.
	Mansion House, Leatherhead	Fris. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, North Holmwood	1st & 3rd Thurs. 2 p.m.
	Health Centre, Station Rd. Horley	3rd Wed. a.m. and Fri. 2 p.m.
	Health Centre, Leigh	2nd Mon. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, Newdigate	3rd Tues. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, Ockley	1st & 3rd Fris. 2 p.m.
	Parish Hall, Salfords	2nd & 4th Tues. 2 p.m.
Ante-Natal	Dene Street, Dorking	Mon. & Wed. 2 p.m.
	Reading Room, Westcott	2nd & 4th Mon. 2 p.m.
	Dorking General Hospital	Fri. 9.30 a.m.
	Welfare Centre, Station Road, Horley	Wed. 2 p.m.
	St. John's Hospital, Redhill	Tues. 1.30 p.m.
Tuberculosis	Mansion House, Leatherhead	Tues. 1.30 p.m.
	Epsom District Hospital, Dorking Road, Epsom	Mon. & Thurs. 1.30 p.m.
	Health Centre, Dene Street, Dorking	Fri. 10 a.m.
	Chest Clinic, La Cecil Road, Redhill	Thurs. 2 p.m. Every 2nd Thurs. 5.30 p.m., Tues. 2 p.m., Every Tues. 5.30 p.m.
	Chest Clinic, Epsom District Hospital	Tues. & Thurs. 2 p.m. 3rd Thurs. 5.30 p.m.

Time-table of Clinics (cont.)

Family Planning Association Clinic	St. John's Hospital, Redhill	Tues. 6 - 7.30 p.m.
	Dorking General Hospital	Tues 6 - 7.30 p.m. (Except following Bank holidays)
	Epsom District Hospital	Fri. 7 p.m.
Venereal Diseases	St. John's Hospital, Redhill	Males: Mon. 5 - 7 p.m.
	Royal Surrey County	Males: Tues. & Fris. 5 - 7 p.m. Females: Mon. 2 - 7 p.m. Thurs. 9.30 - 11 a.m.

(And at the Out-patient Department of many London Hospitals)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of this Act gave power to local authorities to take steps to deal with persons suffering from chronic illness or infirmity, who for one reason or another are not receiving proper care and attention, and who are unable to manage for themselves. As might be expected, the majority of these are old people who, in addition to physical illness, have some loss of mental power sufficient to curtail their reasoning powers but not serious enough to require their admission to hospitals for mental illness. There is a tendency for some of these old people to cut themselves off from relatives and friends and to refuse all help, and the conditions in which they live may reach a deplorable state of neglect before it is realised by relatives or neighbours that the matter should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health or to the Welfare Officer. Removal to hospital or other institution is by then a matter of some urgency to safeguard the invalid's life and to permit the cleaning of filth and rubbish from the existing accommodation.

Under the 1948 Act, power was given to the local authority to apply to the Magistrates Court for an Order to obtain the compulsory removal, for a period not exceeding three months, of a person found in such conditions. As the result of experience, it was found that the time taken to comply with the legal requirements of the Act in obtaining an Order for compulsory removal was so long that the practical value of the powers given by the Act to local authorities was curtailed. An amending Act which came into force in 1951 enables authorities to adopt a more expeditious procedure in cases requiring urgent attention.

No action was taken under this section during the year, though investigation was called for in several cases.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREAWATER SUPPLY

The position with regard to the supply of water to occupied buildings is estimated to be as follows:-

Number of houses with a piped water supply	8,232
" " " " well water supply	130
" " " dependant on springs	50
" " " with rainwater storage facilities	1
" " " without proper water supply	9 +

+ The dwellings in this category are all on one estate, and the owner has made arrangements for water to be carted to each of them.

EXTENSION OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

During the year 206 premises were connected to piped water supplies, details being as follows:-

	<u>New Houses</u> +		<u>Existing Houses</u>
	<u>Private</u>	<u>Local Authority</u>	
Dorking Water Company	7	18	3
East Surrey Water Company	126	30	3
Guildford, Godalming and District Water Board	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>
	135	54	17
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

+ The term "new houses" includes flats converted within existing houses, during the year.

Further consideration was given to the question of providing 26 houses at The Dene, Abinger Hammer, with a piped water supply. An early solution to this problem is essential for the wellbeing of the inhabitants.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Three water undertakings distribute water in the various parishes of the Rural District. They are the East Surrey Water Company, the Dorking Water Company, and the Guildford, Godalming and District Joint Water Board.

The Dorking Water Company obtains water from a series of wells sunk into the Folkestone beds on the western outskirts of Dorking, and serves the parishes of Capel, Holmwood and Ockley. The East Surrey Water Company obtains most of its water from deep wells in chalk of the North Downs and supplies the parishes of Betchworth, Buckland, Charlwood, Headley, Horley, Newdigate and Leigh.

Public Water Supplies (cont.)

The water supplied by the Joint Board to Abinger and Wotton comes from deep bore holes in the greensand in Guildford Rural District.

The chemical and bacteriological quality of the piped water supplies has remained consistently satisfactory and of a high standard of purity.

SUPERVISION OF WATER SUPPLIES

- (a) Bacteriological examination - The number of samples taken for bacteriological examination was 45, the reports on which are summarised as follows:-

<u>Source</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Dorking Water Company	10	-
East Surrey Water Company	2	-
Guildford, Godalming and District Joint Water Board	3	-
Private Wells	8	13
" Springs	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	28	17

- (b) Chemical examination - Fifteen samples of water were submitted to chemical examination with the following results:-

<u>Source</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Dorking Water Company	6	1
East Surrey Water Company	-	-
Guildford, Godalming and District Joint Water Board	2	-
Springs	4	1
Wells	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>
	13	2

Typical reports on chemical samples taken in the areas of supply of the three Water Companies are as follows:-

Table of Comparative Chemical Analysis (parts per 100,000)

	<u>Dorking Water Co.</u>	<u>East Surrey Water Co.</u>	<u>Guildford etc. Joint Board</u>
Total Solids (dried at 180°C)	29.0	18.0	30.0
Combined Chloride/ (Equivalent to Sodium Chloride NaCl)	3.5	3.5	3.1
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	0.66	0.76	0.58
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	Nil	Minute	Nil
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nil	0.0026	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.0010	0.0006	0.0004
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. @ 27°C	0.009	0.10	0.005
Lead or Copper	Nil	Nil	Nil
Temporary Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	11.5	4.5	11.0
Permanent Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	6.0	5.0	5.0
Total Hardness (equivalent to CaCO ₃)	17.5	9.5	16.0

Public Water Supplies (cont.)

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Six of the 12 parishes in the Rural District are provided with systems of main drainage. A short description of each installation was given in the Report for 1950

A further step in the provision of main drainage for the parish of Charlwood was taken with the acceptance by the Council of the tender of Messrs. G. Faulkner & Son, Ltd., in the sum of £109,849. 4s. 2d. and the sanction of the Ministry to borrow the sum of £125,600 in respect of sewers, pumping stations and land.

Further progress was also made in the sewerage of Abinger Hammer by the acceptance of the tender of Messrs. G. Faulkner & Son in the sum of £11,867. 6s. 1d.. Of this sum approximately £1,421 would be recoverable from Guildford Rural District Council who had requested the laying of a 12" pipe in lieu of the 9" pipe originally proposed. The Ministry's sanction for the borrowing of £13,000 in respect of this scheme was also received.

With the completion of sewer extensions at the White Hart Estate, Capel, and Smallfield Road, Horley, 69 premises were provided with main drainage.

The need for a main drainage scheme in the Forest Green area of Abinger is as great as ever.

The drainage arrangements of the houses in the Rural District is estimated to be :-

Number of houses connected to sewer	4,838
" " " " cesspools	2,659
" " " " septic tanks	272
" " " without proper drainage arrangements	653

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The closet accommodation in houses in the Rural District is estimated to be as follows:-

Number of houses with water closets	6,772
" " " " chemical closets	365
" " " " pail closets	1,285
" " " " privies	-

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The Council continued their undertaking to empty cesspools six times a year, free of charge, and an increasing quantity of material was discharged into the sewers in various parts of the district. This practice, while much to be preferred to the indiscriminate tipping on land, is, nevertheless, not without its risks. The continued vigilance of the Engineer and Surveyor on this aspect has obviated any major deterioration in the standard of effluent produced by the sewage works.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service operates under the supervision of the Engineer and Surveyor, and no changes were introduced during the year.

PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS

There are two swimming pools to which the public are admitted. Four samples of swimming bath water were submitted during the year to bacteriological examination. Two showed that chlorination was insufficient, but this was remedied by the proprietors without delay when their attention was drawn to the matter.

MORTUARY FACILITIES

The following arrangements are in force in the rural district with regard to the provision of Mortuary services:-

Parishes of Horley and Charlwood

The Council own a single storey one-roomed mortuary at the rear of the Police Station in Massetts Road, Horley. The building is equipped with hot and cold water supplies and is gas illuminated.

During the year 12 bodies were admitted and post-mortem examinations held.

Other Parishes

By agreement with Leatherhead Urban Council, use is made of the mortuary facilities provided by that Council, the cost being apportioned on the basis of the rateable value of the districts concerned. The cost to this Council is approximately £18. per annum.

During the year 20 bodies were received into the mortuary and post-mortem examinations held.

With regard to the southernmost portions of the district an agreement is in force between Horsham Urban Council and this Council for the use of that authority's mortuary when required. During the year, however, no use was made of this facility.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

There are in the rural district four established caravan sites situated at:-

- (i) Rickwood, Beare Green.
- (ii) New Close Farm, Beare Green.
- (iii) Blue Ridges, Vann Lake Road, Ockley.
- (iv) The Cottage Camp Site, Boxhill Road, Tadworth.

With the exception of the site at New Close Farm, all these caravan sites were in existence prior to the appointed day fixed by the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947; their use had, therefore, been established and, although in some instances the conditions leave much to be desired, there has, nevertheless, been a gradual improvement.

Moveable Dwellings (cont.)

Rickwood Caravan Site

Under a change of ownership there has been a considerable improvement in conditions. The site has now been provided with a single storey brick building which contains (inter alia) baths, washing hand basins, showers, water closets and a clothes washing room. The building is equipped with constant hot water, and the improvement has included the provision of clinker roads, and additional water stand pipes. The Council agreed to contribute to the cost of connecting this building to the Council's sewer.

The number of caravans on the site varies, but averages about 85 structures.

Five families were re-housed from this site during the year.

Now Close. Beare Green

This is a site established since the appointed day fixed by the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and as a result it has been possible for its development to be regulated. Conditions attaching to the licensing of the site included the provision of a proper building with water closets, baths and washing facilities. The site has been well maintained and the average number of caravans at any one time is about 56, and at no time has exceeded the maximum proscribed by the Council.

Blue Ridges, Ockley

This is a small site limited to 15 caravans, which is operated and managed in a satisfactory manner.

Cottage Camp Site, Boxhill Road, Tadworth

This site is limited to one caravan and 4 chalets which are used principally for holiday purposes.

In addition there are a few small groups of caravans and a number of single vans in various parts of the district. Some of these are used in connection with agricultural employment.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

The following return has been made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service in accordance with Section 128 (3) of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1	2	3	4	5
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	47	10		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	83		2	
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)				
Total	130	10	2	

Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were				Prosecutions Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M.	by H.M.	
	2	3	4	5	
Want of cleanliness	1	1			
Overcrowding					
Unreasonable temperature					
Inadequate ventilation					
Ineffective drainage of floors					
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)					
Total	2	2			

No outworkers lists were issued to other local authorities

Factories (cont.)

The 130 premises on the Register of Factories on the 31st December, 1955, were as follows:-

	<u>Part A</u>	<u>Part B</u>
Addressograph Manufacturers		1
Agricultural Engineers		2
Aircraft Repairers		3
Bakers	3	2
Ball Bearing Manufacturers		1
Band Saw Maker		1
Boot and Shoe Repairers	7	2
Broom Makers	1	-
Brick Works		8
Builder's Workshops	9	3
Cycle Repairers	7	-
Drawing Office Equipment Manufacturers		1
Electrical Engineers		1
Engineers		5
Explosive Manufacturers		1
Fine Art Stationery Manufacturers		1
Flue Block Manufacturers		1
Furniture Makers	4	1
Fur Processors		1
Gas Manufacturers		1
General Engineers		3
Garages and Motor Engineers	2	18
Instrument Maker	1	-
Laundries		4
Line Works		1
Plastic Manufacturers		2
Portable Building Makers		3
Printers		5
Radio Repairers	5	-
Research Laboratories		3
Rubber Tyre Processing		1
Sawyers		2
Super Charger Manufacturers		1
Tailors	2	-
Tool Makers		3
Undertakers	2	-
Watch Repairers	4	-
Valet and Dry Cleaners		1
	<u>47</u>	<u>83</u>

Returns relating to the demolition, closing and repair of houses under the Housing and Public Health Acts are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. It is accordingly suggested that the housing statistics usually included in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health need not in future be as detailed or comprehensive as in the past. An abridged summary of the housing statistics for the year is set out below.

1.	1.	<u>Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year</u>	
	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	844
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,093
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	-
		No houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 for the reason that following the completion of the "Hobhouse" survey all dwellings to which the Regulations were considered to apply, have been inspected and recorded.	
3.		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	63
4.		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	42
11.		<u>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:</u>	
		Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-
111.		<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the year:</u>	
	(a)	<u>Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.</u>	
	1.	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
	2.	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a)	By owners	8
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners	-

Housing (cont.)

111.	(b)	<u>Proceedings under Public Health Acts</u>	
	1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring to be remedied	7
	2	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
	(a)	By owners	4
	(b)	By local authority in default of owners	3
	(c)	<u>Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>	
	1	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	
	2	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	
	(d)	<u>Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936</u>	
	1	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	9
	2	Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	
	3	Number of houses in respect of which under-takings were received that the premises would not be re-occupied until made reasonably fit for human habitation	35

ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES

I am indebted to the Council's Engineer and Surveyor for the following details of the number of new houses erected in the district during the year.

	<u>Private</u> <u>Enterprise</u>	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Conversions</u>
Parish of Horley	172	12	—
" " Leigh	3	14	—
" " Capel	2	47	—
" " Charlwood	1	7	—
" " Betchworth	2	—	—
" " Newdigate	2	—	—
" " Ockley	1	—	—
" " Headley	—	5	5
" " Hollwood	1	—	—

Erection of new houses (cont.)

	<u>Private</u> <u>Enterprise</u>	<u>Local</u> <u>Authority</u>	<u>Conversions</u>
Parish of Buckland	4	—	—
" " Abinger	1	—	3
" " Wotton	—	—	—

More information relating to the work of the Public Health Department in respect of housing conditions is to be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector,

MILK SUPPLY

The Council's duties with regard to milk consist in the registration of distributors and dairies; in the enforcement of the relevant parts of the Milk and Dairies Regulations; in the licensing of those who sell designated milk, either raw or heat treated, in the district under the appropriate Special Designations Regulations; and in the sampling of milk supplies for bacteriological examinations as a routine part of their work in the safeguarding of public health. Details of the work done in this connection are to be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No.2) Order 1954, was made on the 10th September, 1954, and came into operation on the 1st October, 1954, since which date the use of a special designation has been obligatory for the purpose of all sales of milk by retail.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The Chief Sanitary Inspector's report contains information on the work done in connection with the inspection of premises used in the preparation of food, with the inspection of food, and with the supervision of the storage and sale of ice-cream.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The Surrey County Council continued to administer the sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 111 samples for analyses were taken in this district by his staff. Of these 96 were of milk, 3 of cheese, and the remainder of miscellaneous articles of foodstuffs. Eight samples of milk and 2 of sausages were found to be below standard.

The information was also given that within that part of the County in which the County Council acts as Food and Drugs authority a total of 1,331 samples were taken for analysis, including 1,268 of milk. Sixty samples were found to be adulterated or irregular, 35 of these being of milk. Legal proceedings were instituted and a conviction obtained against 2 partners for selling malt vinegar not of the quality demanded.

Table I shows the incidence and death rates of infectious diseases. Incidence rates are estimated per 1,000 population with the exception of the rate for puerperal pyrexia which is based on 1,000 live and still births.

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1955, classified according to age and sex. Table V shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases in the various Parishes of the District.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

Vaccination against Smallpox

During the year notifications were received from medical practitioners of 223 primary vaccinations, and 147 re-vaccinations which had been performed by them. Of the primary vaccinations 171 related to children under the age of one year, equivalent to 54% of the number of births registered in the district during the year. This compares with a recent estimated vaccination rate of 34% for England and Wales.

SCARLET FEVER

Twenty cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with 32 for the previous year. There was no mortality from the disease, which continued to be of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA

For the seventh year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified in the district.

Reference to Table VI indicates the decline which has taken place in the incidence of this disease.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

Treatment can be obtained from general practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or from clinics arranged by the local health authority, these being held at regular intervals at all Infant Welfare Centres serving the district, of which details are set out on pages 9 and 10. These arrangements are intended primarily for infants and others under school age. Clinics in schools have been organised by the Divisional Medical School Officer for pupils requiring treatment, usually the reinforcing course. The aim is for every child to receive a primary treatment in its first year of life, with secondary treatments consisting of single injections at intervals of 3 to 4 years up to the end of school life to reinforce the original treatment.

Immunisation against Diphtheria (cont.)

It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained for every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

At the end of the year it was estimated that 52% of children under the age of 15 years had been treated and were still in an effective state of immunity. The comparable figure for 1954 was 56%. The fall is principally due to a decline in the amount of immunisation done in schools. Increased attention will be paid to this aspect of the work in the coming year, and should produce more satisfactory figures.

WHOOPING COUGH

Ninety cases of whooping cough were notified compared with 103 in the previous year. No death was registered as due to this disease.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Notifications were received from medical practitioners and clinics that 318 children had received a primary course and 11 children had been given booster doses. In the majority of cases the treatment was combined with diphtheria immunisation.

MEASLES

Three hundred and sixty cases of measles were notified during the year compared with 121 in 1954. No death from the disease was recorded.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

Ten cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, 3 being of the paralytic type. There were no fatal cases. All the cases occurred in the parish of Horley, the majority in the third quarter of the year.

The production of an effective vaccine against poliomyelitis is now imminent, and assuming that unsuspected difficulties do not occur, the immunisation of the susceptible population is likely to take place in the next year or two. It may be that poliomyelitis, which in the past 10 years has been a source of anxiety to parents and to all concerned with the health of children, will lose its sinister importance as quickly as did diphtheria following the introduction of immunisation.

PARATYPHOID FEVER

One case of paratyphoid B infection was notified, the patient being a young woman resident in Abinger Parish. The source of infection was not detected.

FOOD POISONING

A food handler was infected by a food poisoning organism of the salmonella group. He remained under observation for a considerable period because of the continued presence of the organism in the faeces. Arrangements were made for him to stay away from work until the condition cleared.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

The fact that only a single notification of puerperal pyrexia was received is misleading, and results from an administrative procedure which allocates a notification of an infectious disease to the district in which the patient is resident at the time of the diagnosis. A large number of confinements of residents of the Rural District take place each year in hospitals which are situated in other districts. Cases of puerperal pyrexia occurring in these institutions are assigned to the areas in which the hospitals are located, producing high notification rates in the districts concerned.

LEPTOSPIRAL JAUNDICE (WEILL'S DISEASE)

The death of an agricultural worker was caused by this condition, which is an illness spread through the medium of rats which themselves suffer from the infection and excrete the organisms in their urine, thus contaminating their surroundings. The infection is passed to human beings through abrasions of the skin or mucous membranes. Persons whose occupation involves the risk of skin injury, and carried out in an environment favourable to rat infestation such as agricultural workers or sewermen, obviously run a higher risk of contracting the infection. Means to minimise the risk consist in wearing, when possible, suitable protective clothing, in the reduction of the rat population, and in prompt first aid treatment of wounds and abrasions.

TETANUS

No case of tetanus was reported during the year. However this condition is not notifiable and it is possible for the illness to occur without coming to the notice of the Public Health Department, unless it proceeds to a fatal termination.

Immunisation against Tetanus

In the annual report for 1953, I reported on the occurrence of a fatal case of tetanus in a child, and gave some details of a new immunising material against the risk of this infection. The treatment can be combined with immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough. It is probable that in the near future the Surrey County Council, as local health authority, will include the treatment in its scheme of immunisation and vaccination against infectious diseases.

RABIES

A death was caused by the invariably fatal disease of rabies or hydrophobia. It is extremely rare for such an incident to occur in this country, the last death of a civilian in England and Wales being reported as long ago as 1911. In the past 10 years 2 servicemen have died in this country, having been flown home for treatment from abroad where the illness was contracted. In the present case the patient was bitten by a sick puppy when working in Pakistan, his return to this country being made by air during the incubation period. A few days after arrival he became unwell, and the family doctor was consulted. He made the correct diagnosis of this rare condition most skilfully, and the patient was immediately admitted to hospital. There is, unfortunately, no treatment for rabies once it is established, and death took place four days later.

As soon as the diagnosis was made it was reported to the Public Health Department and measures were considered for reducing the risk of spread of the infection. Normally a human being is infected by an animal suffering from the disease, usually by the bite of a dog, as in the case here described. There is also a risk of the passage of the virus from an infected person to human beings and animals in close contact with him. With these facts in mind, it was advised that the patient's wife and child should be given a course of anti-rabies vaccine, and that of the household pets one dog and three cats should be destroyed and two dogs put in quarantine under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

TUBERCULOSIS

Ten primary notifications of tuberculosis were received from medical practitioners of persons certified to be suffering from that disease. These concerned residents of the district in which the disease was recognised for the first time. In Table IV they are classified by sex and age, and in Table V by parish of residence. They include 5 cases of the non-pulmonary type of disease.

Other names added to the register were those of 19 persons who came to live in the district, having previously been notified in other areas.

Registration of Notified Persons

During the year the names of 29 persons mentioned in the previous paragraphs were added to the tuberculosis register, and 26 were removed. Details of these alterations are as follows:-

<u>ADDITIONS TO REGISTER</u>		<u>REMOVALS FROM REGISTER</u>	
Primary notifications relating to persons already residing in the district	10 +	By removals to other districts	13
Transfer of persons notified in other areas, now residing in this district	<u>19</u>	By recovery	7
	29	By death	6 ++
			<u>26</u>

+ Including two notifications received posthumously.

++ In 1 case the cause of death of the notified person was not attributed to tuberculosis on the death certificate.

Tuberculosis (cont.)

At the end of the year the number of names on the register was as follows: compared with the previous year's figures.

	<u>1955</u>		<u>1954</u>	
	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	<u>Respiratory</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory</u>
Male	60	20	51	23
Female	<u>49</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>19</u>
	109	41	105	42
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Deaths

Four deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis were assigned to the district, giving a death-rate of 0.18. The death-rate for England and Wales was 0.15.

Table VII illustrates the satisfactory trend which the mortality figures for tuberculosis have assumed in recent years.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Five cases were notified, of whom 3 were resident in the Parish of Horley. Single cases occurred in the Parishes of Leigh and Charlwood. It may be recalled that last year there was a small outbreak of non-pulmonary tuberculosis in Horley which suggested that infected milk was the cause. Enquiries made into this years cases showed that there was no repetition of this occurrence in Horley.

The fact that under a Milk (Special Designations) Order all milk retailed in the district must now be heat treated or derived from tuberculin tested herds, should reduce still further the incidence of this condition. At the same time it emphasises the importance of care on the part of holiday makers to rural areas where a similar Order may not be in force. Before drinking, enquiry should be made as to whether the milk has either been pasteurised or has been derived from tuberculin tested herds. If the answer is in the negative, or is non-committal, the milk should be boiled before being given to children.

B. C. G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

This treatment is available to contacts in the family of tuberculous persons, if preliminary testing shows that they have not already been infected. It has also been offered to children aged between 13 and 14 years attending maintained schools, and there is a prospect in the near future that private schools will have the opportunity of coming into the scheme of treatment. The treatment in schools is carried out by the staff of the Divisional Medical Officer who has provided the figures in relation to the work done in local schools in 1955. He informs me that the parents of 212 children in the selected age group were approached and 127 (59.9%) gave their consent to the preliminary testing with subsequent treatment if that was found necessary. The final number of children who were vaccinated was 83, equivalent to 39.2% of the children in the age group. In the Southern Division as a whole the number consenting to treatment was 67.6% and receiving treatment 51.2%.

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND
MATERNAL MORTALITY RATES AND INCIDENCE
RATES FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE
YEARS 1954 - 1955

	1955	1954
<u>Rates per 1,000 Populations</u>		
<u>BIRTHS</u>		
Live Births	14.8	15.8
Still Births	0.43	0.22
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All Causes	10.7	9.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.18	0.22
Influenza	-	-
Smallpox	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	0.04
Pneumonia	0.36	0.29
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.04	0.07
Meningococcal Infection	-	-
Scarlet Fever	0.82	1.16
Whooping Cough	3.24	3.66
Diphtheria	-	-
Erysipelas	0.14	0.18
Smallpox	-	-
Measles	13.0	4.39
Pneumonia	0.47	0.47
Poliomyelitis paralytic	0.11	0.03
non-paralytic	0.25	0.11
Food Poisoning	0.04	0.22
Dysentery	0.04	0.03
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.69
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>		
<u>INFANT MORTALITY</u>		
Under 1 year of age	24.3	18.3
Under 4 weeks of age	17.0	11.4
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total Births</u>		
Still Births	28.3	13.5
Puerperal Pyrexia (Notification of)	2.4	-
Maternal Mortality	-	-

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES 1931-1955

DECENNIAL AVERAGES 1931-1950. AVERAGES 1951-1955

Year	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate of children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 Live Births	
	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley	England and Wales	Dorking and Horley
1931-1940	14.9	14.1	12.2	12.0 (10.6) +	57.1	45.3
1941-1950	17.02	17.4	11.7	11.3	42.6	32.0 (13.2) ++
1951	15.5	15.8 (15.5) +	12.5	12.4 (11.3)	29.6	19.4 (8)
1952	15.3	16.5 (16.2)	11.3	11.1 (10.1)	27.6	9.2 (4)
1953	15.5	15.6 (16.5)	11.4	9.3 (8.4)	26.8	14.3 (6)
1954	15.2	15.8 (15.8)	11.3	9.0 (8.1)	25.5	18.3 (8)
1955	15.0	14.8 (15.7)	11.7	10.7 (9.6)	24.9	24.3 (10.)

+ Bracketed figures represent standardised rates

++ Bracketed figures represent number of deaths

TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT

	M	F	Total
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	2	2	4
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic disease	2	1	3
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2	8
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	13	25
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	3	4
16. Diabetes	2	1	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	20	34
18. Coronary disease, angina	26	14	40
19. Hypertension with heart disease	8	4	12
20. Other heart disease	25	38	63
21. Other circulatory disease	8	8	16
22. Influenza	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia	5	5	10
24. Bronchitis	4	3	7
25. Other disease of respiratory system	-	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	3	4	7
32. Other defined and ill-defined disease	7	17	24
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2	6
34. All other accidents	1	4	5
35. Suicide	3	3	6
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	141	155	296

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE AND SEX

	Under 1 year		1 - 2		3 - 4		5 - 9		10 - 14		15 - 24		25 - 44		45 - 64		65 years & over		All ages		Total all ages both sexes
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	1	2	5	6	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	11	20
Whooping Cough	-	3	8	7	11	6	17	25	1	7	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	39	51	90
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Erysipelae	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Measles	5	4	28	22	44	28	108	100	6	9	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	194	166	360	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	6	13
Poliomyelitis, Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	7
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5
Non-Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5

TABLE V

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY PARISHES

	Ablinger	Betchworth	Buckland	Capel	Charlwood	Headley	Holmwood	Horley	Leigh	Newdigate	Ockley	Wotton	TOTAL
Tuberculosis,--													
Pulmonary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	5
Non- Pulmonary	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	5
Typhoid Fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paratyphoid	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Meningococcal													
Infection													
Scarlet Fever	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	15	1	1	1	1	20
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	19	2	1	1	46	7	1	7	5	90
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	4
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	7	3	2	12	31	11	1	226	5	26	37	1	360
Pneumonia	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	10	1	1	3	1	13
Polio-myelitis													
Paralytic								3					3
Non-Paralytic								7					7
Food Poisoning													
Puerperal Pyrexia				1	1								1
Dysentery													1
Malaria													1

TABLE VI

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE DORKING AND HORLEY RURAL DISTRICT 1934-1955

YEAR	Number of cases notified	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population
1934 - 1938	53	0.53	0.04
1939 - 1943	11	0.09	0.04
1944 - 1948	8	0.07	-
1949 - 1953	-	-	-
1954	-	-	-
1955	-	-	-

TABLE VII

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY 1934 - 1955

QUINQUENAL AVERAGES 1934 - 1953

<u>Year</u>	<u>Notifications</u> Number of new notifications	<u>Notification Rate per</u> 1,000 Population	<u>Deaths</u> Total	<u>Death Rate per</u> 1,000 Population
1934 - 1938	19.0	0.77	12.4	0.62
1939 - 1943	20.4	0.90	11.0	0.46
1944 - 1948	24.4	1.05	18.8	0.48
1949 - 1953	19.8	0.73	4.2	0.16
1954	19	0.69	6	0.22
1955	10	0.36	5	0.18

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT

"Brookmead"
Station Road,
DORKING,
Surrey.

September, 1956.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking and Horley Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting a report on the work of the Public Health and Housing Department for the year 1955, which incidentally, was my twenty-fifth year in the local government service. Many changes have taken place during that time, but the most significant, I think, is the appreciation by the general public of the advising role of the Sanitary Inspector. It is now quite common to be asked for "opinions", as distinct from an actual complaint, or routine investigation. Part of this may be due to the great increase in local government legislation which has placed many new responsibilities on local Councils.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-five saw a notable increase in the number of applications for Improvement Grants, and the policy of the Council to give maximum assistance whenever possible has undoubtedly been an encouragement to owners to improve and modernise many dwellings.

Once again I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of the support which I have enjoyed from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, my grateful acknowledgement of the consideration and advice offered by the Medical Officer of Health, and to the members of my staff, my thanks for the way in which they have individually and collectively done so much to make the work of the Department a success.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ERIC A. ATKINSON.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Inspections

The total number of inspections on various public health matters was 2,178 as compared with 2,375 in 1954. No changes in staff occurred during the year.

Details of the various inspections are as follows:-

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS 1955

<u>Housing Act, 1936</u>	Inspections of Dwellings	644
	Visits re Housing applicants	12
<u>Public Health Act, 1936</u>	Inspections of Dwellings	200
	" " Moveable dwellings	8
	" re Water Supply	22
	" " Drainage Work	110
	" " Defective Cesspools	82
	" " Ditches and Watercourses	40
	" " Smoke nuisance	1
	Visits re Infectious Diseases	116
	" " Rooms disinfected	11
	" " Pests (by Sanitary Inspectors)	27

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1937

Inspections of Bakehouses	6
" re Butchers' Shops	5
" " Cafes and Restaurants	17
" " Dairies and Milkshops	10
" " Fishmongers	3
" " Licensed Premises	3
" " Other food premises	14
" " Farms and Cowsheds	2
Visits to inspect unsound food	39
" " Slaughterhouses	219

Factories Act, 1937

Inspections of Factories with power	10
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<u>Pet Animals Act, 1951</u>	Inspection re Pet Shop	1
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Petroleum Consolidation Act, 1928

Inspection of Petroleum Stores	26
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Sampling

No. of Samples taken - Milk	230
Water	56
Ice-cream	8
No. of Pathological specimens collected	16
Other unclassified visits	240
	<u>2,178</u>

Public Health (cont.)

NOTICES

Eighty-two preliminary notices were issued during the year, under various Acts and Regulations, as follows:-

Housing Act, 1936

Section 9		31
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Public Health Act, 1936

Section 39	Insufficient or inadequate drainage	17
Section 50	Overflowing or leaking cesspools	4
Section 93 (i)	Premises prejudicial to health	8
(ii)	Animals kept so as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance	2
(iii)	Offensive accumulations or deposits	3
Section 259	Obstructed or polluted ditches	9

Public Health (Water) Act, 1945

	Absence of proper water supply	2
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Factories Act, 1937

Section 1	Want of cleanliness	1
Section 7	Defective Sanitary accommodation	1

Food & Drugs Act, 1938

Section 13	Want of cleanliness	<u>4</u>
		<u>82</u>

Of these 82 notices, 34 were complied with without further action, and in 18 cases Statutory Notices were issued, 31 Preliminary and 1 Statutory Notices were outstanding on the 31st December, 1955. The 28 Preliminary Notices and 4 Statutory Notices outstanding at the beginning of the year were complied with during the year.

WORK IN DEFAULT

The execution of certain work in default of the owners was carried out in four instances, as follows:-

1. Housing repairs in one case
2. Repairs to combined drain serving three houses

In all cases payment in full was made on demand.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

No legal proceedings were taken during 1955.

Public Health (cont.)

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Generally

The supervision of premises where food is prepared or sold has been maintained throughout the year. Details on the Food Premises Register at the end of the year were as follows:-

	<u>No. in District</u>
Baker's Shops	5
Bakehouses	4
Butchers	14
Fishmongers	2
Cafes	24
Factory Canteens	7
Fried Fish Shops	2
Grocers	16
Greengrocers	12
Hotels	7
Ice-cream dealers	58
Ice-cream manufacturers	3
Public Houses	34
School Canteens and Kitchens	3
Snack Bars	3

MILK

Sampling for bacteriological examination is restricted to milk retailers retailing in the district and to school supplies. Particular attention has been paid to ungraded raw milk when submitting samples for the biological examination for tubercle bacilli. Two hundred and thirty samples were taken during the year, of which 214 were submitted for bacteriological examination, and 16 to biological examination. The bacteriological examinations made were the Phosphatase test for adequacy of heat treatment in the case of pasteurised milk, and the Methylene Blue Test for cleanliness in all supplies other than sterilised milk. Samples of sterilised milk were submitted to the Turbidity Test. Results of tests were as follows:-

	<u>No. of Samples</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	13	13	-
Tuberculin Tested	54	49	5
Pasteurised	130	128	2
Sterilised	4	4	-
Ungraded	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>-</u>
	214	207	7

The results of the biological tests were negative in all cases. This test involves the injection of the fluid under investigation into a guinea pig with subsequent post mortem examination of the animal.

Public Health (cont.)

Pasteurising Plant

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district. The Surrey County Council as the Food and Drugs Act Authority is responsible for the issue of the appropriate licences, but by arrangement, the Chief Sanitary Inspector exercises supervisory control.

Cream

In addition to the samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination 8 samples of "double" cream were taken and graded as follows:-

Grade 1	3
" 2	2
" 3	<u>3</u>
	<u>8</u>

Registration and Licence

Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Areas) No. 2 order 1954

This order which came into force in the rural district on the 21st October, 1954, made compulsory the use of special designation in relation to milk sold by retail. This meant that no raw ungraded milk could be sold in the prescribed area. As a result a number of retailers gave up their rounds, and where they were also producers of undesignated milk, made arrangements for their milk to be sent to pasteurising establishments; the number of retailers on the register is now 15.

Slaughterhouses

The year commenced with the Charlwood Slaughterhouse in full operation, but by the end of the year the number of animals being slaughtered per week had shewn some signs of slackening.

The Slaughterhouse at Ockley was only used on approximately one day per week.

The number of animals slaughtered is given in the following table:-

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	62	36	115	54	996	Nil.
Number inspected	62	36	115	54	996	Nil.
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	4	Nil.	7	Nil

Slaughterhouses (cont.)

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	17	13	5	5	72	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	29.0	36.1	7.8	9.2	7.9	-
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u> Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	5	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	5	Nil	Nil	18	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	22.6	13.9	-	-	2.3	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	-	-	-

Slaughtermen's Licences

Nine licences were issued to slaughtermen practising in the rural district.

Unsound Food

Thirty-nine visits were made to food premises for the purpose of examining food reputed as being unfit for human consumption.

As a result of these visits the following quantities and types of foodstuffs were surrendered to the Sanitary Inspectors as being unfit for human consumption:-

Unsound Food (cont.)

(a) Canned Food

(i) Meat

Corned Beef	7 x 6-lb tins 2 x 12 oz "
Cooked Ham	57½ lbs 12 x 6-lb tins 3 x 12 oz "
Luncheon Meat	6 lbs 29 x 7-oz tins

(ii) Fruit and Vegetables

Morello Cherries	3,021 tins x 16-ozs
Pears	4 x 1-lb tins
Tomatoes in brine	136 x 16-ozs

(b) Other Foods

Cheese (Cheddar)	167 lbs
" (Kraft)	38 pkts. x 4½-ozs
Dried Milk	28 lbs
Margarine	4 lbs
Imported Beef	173 lbs
Richmond Sausages	7½ lbs
Roast Pork	11 lbs

The total weight involved was approximately 1 ton 13 cwt 3 qrs 8 lbs. Disposal was by treatment at the Reigate Borough Council Refuse Destructor where an animal food processing plant is available.

HOUSING

Unfit houses

During 1955 further progress was made in the elimination of the unfit house, in providing new accommodation for the general needs of the rural district, and in the improvement of older properties which, though of sound construction, lacked certain essential services.

The condition of 64 dwellings situated in the following parishes received consideration by the Committee:-

Horley	50
Betchworth	1
Charlwood	4
Capel	8
Holmwood	1

The emphasis on the unfit houses in the parish of Horley arose from the fact that in this parish the easing of the general demand for accommodation and the continued building of Council houses enabled the Council to make a beginning in the removal of unfit dwellings.

Closing orders were made in respect of 9 dwellings under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, and undertakings not to use for human habitation were accepted in respect of 30 dwellings. In 11 cases the dwelling had either been improved by the owners voluntarily, or proposals to execute works on the rehousing of the tenants had been accepted by the Council. Action was deferred in respect of the remaining 14, but in 6 cases further negotiations were to take place with the owner concerned.

By the end of the year nine families had been rehoused, including one family rehoused by a neighbouring authority.

Details of unfit houses and action taken during 1955 are as follows:-

(i) Dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made

No. 60, Station Road, Horley

62	"	"	"
64	"	"	"
66	"	"	"
68	"	"	"
70	"	"	"

No. 2, Fernside Cottages, Hockwood

2 Diamond " "

Room at Busheycroft, S. Holmwood

Housing (cont.)

(ii) Dwellings in respect of which owners gave undertakings that the premises would not be used for human habitation

"Byways", County Oak, Lowfield Heath.	Tenant rehoused by Council, and owner given permission to use premises as chicken shed.
Shiremark Cottage, Capel)	Tenants rehoused by Council, and owner has intimated his intention of submitting reconstruction schemes for approval
West Lyne Lodge, ")	
Taylor's Farm Cottage ")	
No. 2, Sun Cottage, Charlwood	Tenant rehoused by Council
No. 34, Albert Road, Horley)	Tenants not yet rehoused
36 " " ")	
No. 165 Albert Road, Horley)	Tenants not yet rehoused
167 " " ")	
Ringley Oak Cottage, Horley	Unoccupied premises
No. 1 Pear Tree Farm, Salfords	Tenants not rehoused by the end of the year
2 " " " "	
No. 13, Church Road, Horley	"
14, " " "	"
No. 1, Forders Cottages, Fernhill	"
2 " " "	"
3 " " "	"
4 " " "	"
Fircroft, Ladbroke Road, Horley	"
No. 1, Jessamine Cottages, Horley	"
2 " " "	"
No. 1, Railway Cottages, Horley	"
2 " " "	"
3 " " "	"
No. 2, Honeysuckle Cottages, Horley	"

Housing (cont.)

Forge Cottage, Bonehurst Road, Horley	Tenants not rehoused by end of the year
Caravan, Plumridge's Garage, Lowfield Heath	"
No. 1, Honeysuckle Cottages, Horley	Premises vacant
Dillon Cottage, Betchworth	Tenant rehoused by Council

(iii) Dwellings in respect of which work was voluntarily carried out by the owners or in respect of which satisfactory proposals have been made:-

Nos. 1, Coppingham Cottages,	Horley
2 " "	"
3 " "	"
Nos. 1, Millstream Cottages,	Salfords
2 " "	"
Nos.1-2 Honeysuckle Cottages,	Horley
Hutchins Cottage	"
Nos.1-2 Yew Tree Cottages	"
4, Axeland Cottages,	Salfords
Sidlow Farm Cottage,	Sidlow
Birch Tree Cottage,	Horley

Improvement Grants

Fifty-six applications for Improvement Grants were received during 1955, and 50 granted, the total amount of grant being £10,824. 12s. 6d.

Once again the greater number of applicants were either owner/occupier or the proprietors of service or estate cottages. The private landlord has not, so far, taken any advantage of the facilities provided by the Act. Beyond any doubt, rising costs of living, increased building costs and lack of capital are the predominant factors operating against the private landlord.

Certificate of Disrepair

Under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, a landlord is entitled to an increase in rent, subject to certain conditions, but he is not entitled to that increase if the property is not in all respects in a good state of repair. During the year, 6 applications for a certificate of disrepair were received, and four were granted.

